1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19	Meghalaya	0					
20	Mizoram	0					
21	Nagaland	0					
22	Orissa	443			77		288
23	Pondicherry	0					4
24	Punjab	0	270			20	153
25	Rajasthan	722	30	527			186
26	Sikkim	0					
27	Tamil Nadu	341	750		54	477	946
28	Tripura	0					
29	Uttar Pradesh	754	188	656		148	266
30	Uttaranchal	0					125
31	West Bengal	398		331	53		
	TOTAL	5,846	3,742	3,448	356	811	4,015

National Policy on Dredging

1887. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at present there is no policy on dredging;

(b) whether investments in dredging is minimal;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to formulate a national policy on dredging;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) Government has already formulated a dredging policy after detailed discussions with all the stake

holders, Salient features of this policy adopted with effect from 1st April 2004 for a period of three years; are:

(i) The maintenance dredging requirement of Kolkata Port shall continue to be met by Dredging Corporation of India Limited (DCI).

(ii) All major ports other then Kolkata Port shall float open tenders for their dredging contracts.

- (iii) DCI shall have the right of first refusal if its bid is within 10% of lowest technically qualified offer, for both maintenance dredging and capital dredging works including the capital dredging requirements of Kolkata Port.

(iv) To ensure level playing field between the DCI and other Indian dredging companies, the right of first refusal has been allowed to all Indian companies provided their bid is within 10% of the lowest offer. If more than one Indian company including DCI participate in the tender, right of first refusal will go to that Indian Company which has quoted the lowest and is within 10% of lowest technically qualified offer.

Engagement of foreign companies for dredging

1888. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign cartels and consortia of dredging companies corner the bulk of dredging operations in India with exhorbitant rates and thereby maintain their monopoly; and

(b) if so, the reasons for engaging foreign companies for dredging?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Present dredging policy provides for finalization of dredging contracts by all major ports, except Kolkata Port, through open tender system. Foreign dredging companies can also participate in the tender process. However, to ensure a level playing field, the policy *inter-alia* provides the right of first refusal to Indian companies provided their bid is within 10% of the lowest offer. While this ensures availability of adequate dredging capacity to meet the increasing requirements of Ports, it also